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NO. 27

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MYSTERY IN SPACE

Featuring "The HUMAN FISHBOWL!"

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If you like to draw or sketch, you may have talent worth training. Find out! Enter this contest. You may *win* two years of free training for a fascinating career in art! Imagine yourself a professional artist making money with the pictures you draw. Real money is paid for advertising art, cartooning and magazine illustrating. It's important, satisfying work—and there's room for *you* in the art field. Thousands of artists are needed *now*.

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"The HUMAN Fishbowl!"

WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING WATER FROM EARTH TO MARS!

LOOK! THERE ARE LIVING EARTH CREATURES INSIDE OUR WATERY SPACESHIP!

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DIVE *UPWARDS* INTO A SWIMMING POOL, OR CAST YOUR FISHING LINE INTO A STREAM OF WATER FLOWING *OVERHEAD*, OR LOOK *DOWNWARD* AT THE GROUND BELOW WHILE YOU ROWED ON A LAKE SUSPENDED IN AIR? IT SOUNDS LIKE EXCITING THRILLS -- BUT BEHIND THIS ASTOUNDING PHENOMENON IS A SINISTER PLAN OF DESTRUCTION -- PLOTTED FROM FIFTY MILLION MILES AWAY IN SPACE!

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MYSTERY IN SPACE

AT A RESORT SWIMMING POOL, THREE MEN ENJOY A MORNING DIP...

OUT OF THE WAY, HARRY-- AND I'LL SHOW YOU A REAL OLYMPIC DIVE!

BUT, STRANGELY, AS THE DIVER LEAVES THE BOARD...

THE WATER IS *RISING!* INSTEAD OF ME DIVING DOWN TO THE WATER-- THE WATER'S COMING *UP* TO ME!

AND THEN, SOME TWENTY FEET ABOVE THE CONCRETE POOL, THE WATER HANGS SUSPENDED AS A SPHERE IN MID-AIR!

HOW CAN WE DEFY THE LAW OF GRAVITY LIKE THIS?

IT--IT'S LIKE SWIMMING IN A *FISHBOWL!* I WONDER WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NEXT?

ELSEWHERE, AS A FELLOW ROWS HIS GIRL ON A SMALL LAKE, THE WATER RISES FROM ITS BED-- TO REMAIN SUSPENDED ABOVE THE GROUND!

LOOK, ANNE! THE LAKE'S FLOATING IN THE AIR!

JOHNNY! I'M FRIGHTENED!

ANOTHER TO WITNESS THE INCREDIBLE OCCURRENCE IS A FISHERMAN, IDLY HOLDING A LINE IN A COUNTRY STREAM...

I MUST BE DREAMING! THE STREAM SEEMS TO BE RISING!

SUDDENLY, WITH HIS LINE IN THE WATER, THE FISHERMAN IS LIFTED FROM THE GROUND...

THE WATER *IS* RISING--AND CARRYING ME WITH IT!

FOR THE ANSWER BEHIND THIS ASTONISHING PHENOMENON OF NATURE, ONE MUST PEER THROUGH FIFTY MILLION MILES OF SPACE, TO A LABORATORY ON THE PLANET *MARS*...

SOMETHING'S WRONG! WE HAVEN'T FORCED THE WATER TO COMPLETE ITS ESCAPE FROM EARTH! IT MERELY FLOATS ABOVE THE SURFACE!

WE HAVE ERRED IN OUR CALCULATIONS!

WE UNDERESTIMATED THE POWERFUL PULL OF EARTH'S GRAVITY! IT'S COUNTER-ACTING OUR HYDRO-MAGNETIC RAYS, LEAVING THE EARTH-WATER SUSPENDED ABOVE THE GROUND, COALESCED INTO A SPHERE BY THE TWO OPPOSING FORCES!

BUT WE MUST BRING EARTHIAN WATER TO MARS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT OUR EXPERIMENTS WITH IT!

LET US SWITCH THE FULL FORCE OF THE HYDRO-MAGNETIC RAYS ONTO ONE SINGLE AREA! THE RAYS WILL THEN BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DRAW THAT ONE BODY OF WATER THROUGH SPACE TO OUR PLANET!

IT IS THE RESORT SWIMMING POOL THAT IS SELECTED BY THE MARTIAN SCIENTISTS -- AND SO, WITH THE THREE SWIMMERS STILL IN IT -- THE WATERY GLOBE SUDDENLY HURTLES UPWARD INTO SPACE...

WE'RE MOVING -- SHOOTING SKYWARD!

IT'S GETTING COLD -- *FREEZING* COLD!

FAR ABOVE EARTH, THE TREMENDOUS COLD OF OUTER SPACE TURNS THE HURTLING GLOBE INTO ICE — RENDERING THE SWIMMERS INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION...

WHILE IN THE DISTANCE, *MARS* -- FIRST, JUST BARELY VISIBLE -- LOOMS LARGER AND LARGER...

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SOON, OVER A MARTIAN CITY, THE FROZEN SPHERE SETTLES SLOWLY TOWARD A GREAT, TRANSPARENT DOME -- ON WHICH GREAT DOORS SWING OPEN...

SUCCESS! WE HAVE BROUGHT WATER FROM EARTH TO MARS.'

INTO A LARGE, WAITING VAT THE FROZEN GLOBE OF EARTH-WATER COMES TO REST...

LOOK! EARTH CREATURES-- FROZEN ALIVE-- INSIDE THE SPHERE! WE HADN'T COUNTED ON BRINGING LIVING CREATURES HERE WITH THE WATER!

WHEN THE ICE MELTS, WE'LL ESTABLISH TELE-PATHIC COMMUNI-CATION WITH THEM!

BUT WE MUSTN'T LET THEM KNOW OUR REAL INTENT, RLLE-.' THAT WE PLAN TO INVADE EARTH.'

WE'LL TELL THEM ONLY *HALF* THE TRUTH.'

THE WAR COUNCIL HAS SELECTED EARTH FOR INVASION BECAUSE OF THE VAST MINERAL STORES OUR SPECTRO-SCOPES HAVE DETECTED ON THAT PLANET.'

WE MUST GET THOSE MINERALS FIRST-- FORGE OUR WEAPONS, THEN LAUNCH OUR ATTACK! LOOK-- ALREADY THE ICE MELTS.'

WITH THE MELTING OF THE ICE, THE THREE EARTH-MEN RECOVER, CLIMB FROM THE VAT, AND STARE ABOUT THEM IN AMAZEMENT...

HARRY! LOOK OUT THERE! WHAT SORT OF CREATURES ARE THEY?

I-- DON'T KNOW! WHERE ARE WE ANYWAY?

SUDDENLY, A MARTIAN VOICE CRACKLES THROUGH A COMPLEX TRANSLATO-MECHANISM...

DO NOT BE ALARMED, EARTHMEN! NO HARM SHALL COME TO YOU! YOU HAVE BEEN TRANSPORTED THROUGH SPACE BY ACCIDENT! YOU ARE ON *MARS*!

WE PLAN A FRIENDLY VISIT TO YOUR PLANET! WE NEED THE WATER TO DETERMINE WHAT EFFECT YOUR HUMID ATMOSPHERE WILL HAVE ON US WHEN WE MAKE A *FRIENDLY* VISIT TO YOUR PLANET!

BE ASSURED, EARTHMEN, WE WILL SAFELY RETURN YOU TO YOUR PLANET WHEN WE JOURNEY THERE!

RLLE! QUICKLY--TO THE LAB! WE HAVE MADE AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY!

A MOMENT LATER, IN THE MARTIAN LABORATORY...

A DROP OF THE EARTH-WATER SHOWS A HIGH MINERAL CONTENT! THE MINERALS WE'VE DETECTED ON EARTH MUST EXIST IN ITS *WATER*!

IF EARTH CREATURES CAN SURVIVE IN WATER AS WELL AS ON LAND, WHY CAN'T WE!

WE MUST NOT TAKE ANYTHING FOR GRANTED! LET US SUBJECT OURSELVES TO THE WATER-TEST!

SOON, TWO MARTIAN VOLUNTEERS, IMMERSING THEMSELVES IN THE WATER, EMERGE UNHARMED...

THEY ARE SAFE! OUR TEST IS COMPLETED! WE KNOW NOW THAT WATER WILL DO US NO HARM!

GOOD! NOW WE CAN PREPARE TO LAUNCH OUR ROCKETS TO EARTH!

SOMETIME LATER, AT THE ROCKET-LAUNCHING SITE...

SO ALL THE MARTIANS WANT FROM EARTH ARE THE MINERALS PRESENT IN THE WATER THERE!

AND FROM WHAT I'VE READ THERE'S PLENTY TO BE FOUND... MAGNESIUM, SULFATES, POTASSIUM—EVEN GOLD! EARTH'S WATER CONTAINS MORE MINERALS THAN THE LAND!

THEN, EMITTING BLINDING FLAMES, THE ROCKTS BLAST OFF...

WHROOSH!

WHROOM!

AS THE SPACESHIPS NEAR EARTH...

THE EARTHMEN SHALL ACT AS OUR GOOD-WILL AMBASSADORS! THEY'LL TELL OTHERS WE COME NOT AS INVADERS, BUT AS FRIENDS, TO OBTAIN MINERALS WHICH THEY CAN SPARE! THAT WAY, WE WON'T BE MOLESTED!

THEN, AFTER WE MAKE OUR WEAPONS-- WE'LL STRIKE!

THE FIFTY-MILLION-MILE TRIP COMES TO A HALT IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, NOT FAR FROM THE U.S. MAINLAND...

WE ARE RELEASING YOU, EARTHMEN, SO YOU CAN TELL YOUR GOVERNMENT OF OUR FRIENDLY MISSION! WE WILL CONTINUE ON, TO THE OCEAN'S FLOOR AND START OUR WORK!

LATER THAT DAY, IN A NEARBY GOVERNMENT LABORATORY...

AND THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE THE MARTIANS DIVED INTO THE DEPTHS TO GO TO THE OCEAN'S FLOOR?

YES! I WONDER WHEN WE'LL SEE THEM AGAIN?

NEVER! NEITHER YOU NOR ANYBODY ELSE WILL EVER SEE OUR INTERPLANETARY VISITORS AGAIN!

HUH? WHY NOT?

THE OCEAN THERE IS TWO MILES DEEP! WATERLESS *MARS* KNOWS NOTHING OF THE IMMENSE *PRESSURE* AT OUR OCEAN BOTTOMS! THEIR SPACESHIPS CAN WITHSTAND SUCH A PRESSURE-- BUT AS SOON AS *THEY* STEP OUT, THEY'LL BE *CRUSHED!*

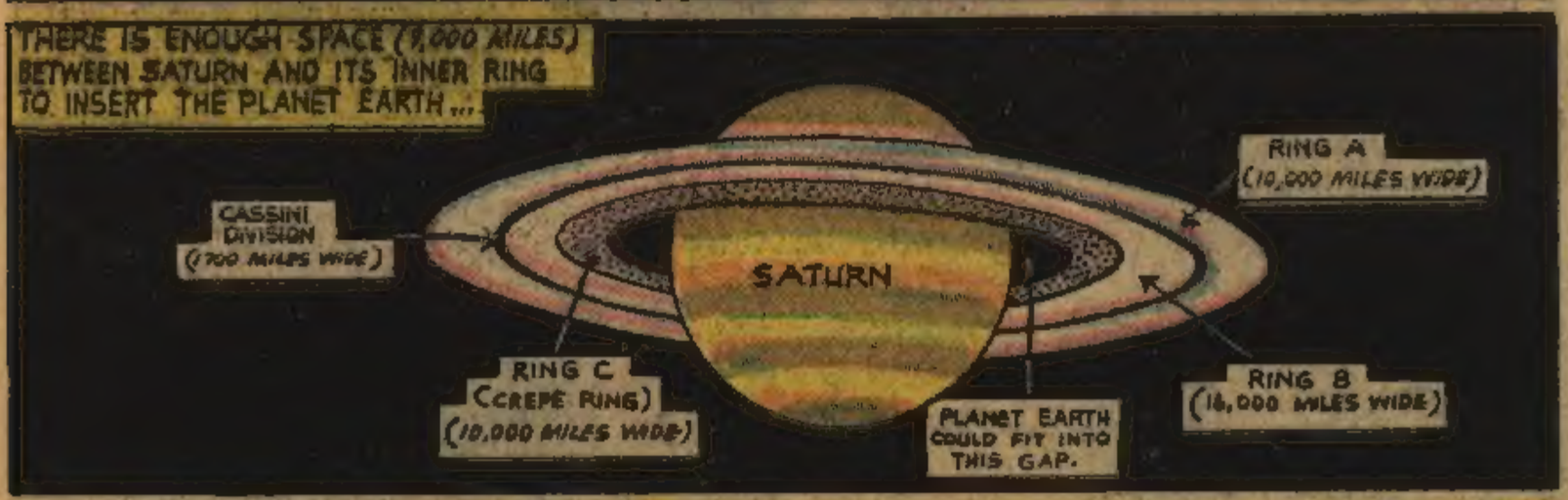
SOON AFTER, FAR ACROSS SPACE, IN A MARTIAN LABORATORY...

ALL COMMUNICATION WITH RLLE AND HIS PARTY HAS CEASED! THEY'VE MET WITH DISASTER! THEIR LAST WORDS WERE A WARNING FOR US NEVER TO GO TO EARTH!

THEN ALL PLANS OF A MARTIAN INVASION OF EARTH ARE DOOMED!

THE END

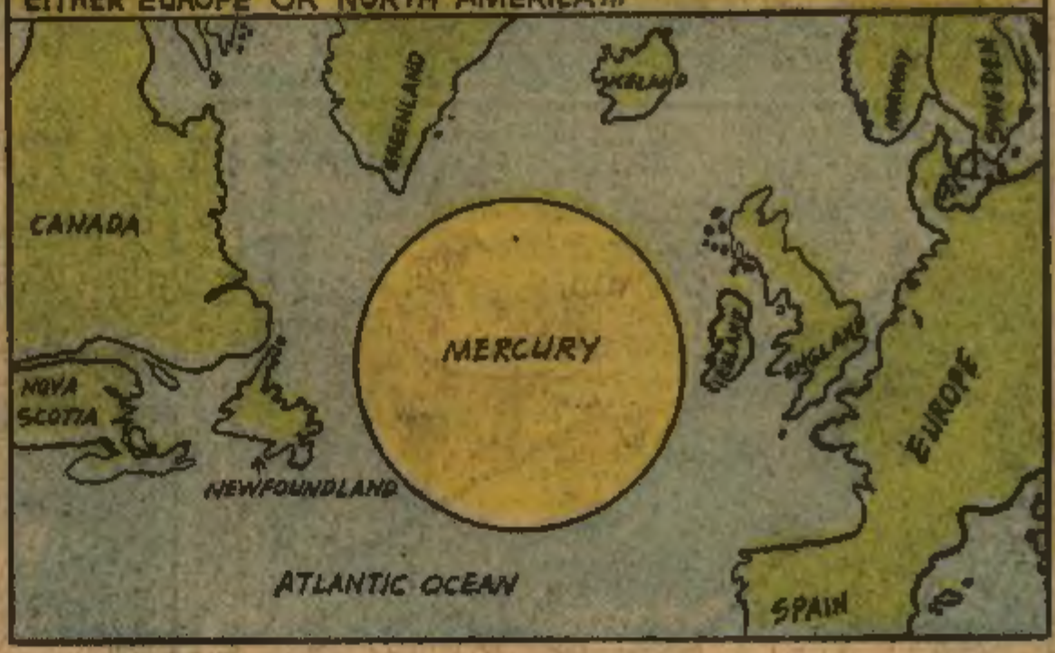
SOLAR SYSTEM SIZES!


THERE IS ENOUGH SPACE (9,000 MILES) BETWEEN SATURN AND ITS INNER RING TO INSERT THE PLANET EARTH...
CASSINI DIVISION (1700 MILES WIDE)
SATURN
RING A (10,000 MILES WIDE)
RING C (CREPE RING) (10,000 MILES WIDE)
PLANET EARTH COULD FIT INTO THIS GAP.
RING B (16,000 MILES WIDE)

ASTEROIDS ARE SMALL PLANET-LIKE BODIES WHOSE ORBITS LIE MOSTLY BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER. OF THE 2,000 ASTEROIDS DISCOVERED TO DATE, THE MAJORITY OF THEM ARE SMALLER THAN THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN...

SIZES OF ASTEROIDS, COMPARED TO THE ISLAND OF MANHATTAN, N.Y.C.

THE PLANET MERCURY IS SO SMALL THAT IT COULD BE PLACED IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN WITHOUT TOUCHING THE COASTLINES OF EITHER EUROPE OR NORTH AMERICA...



ADVERTISEMENT

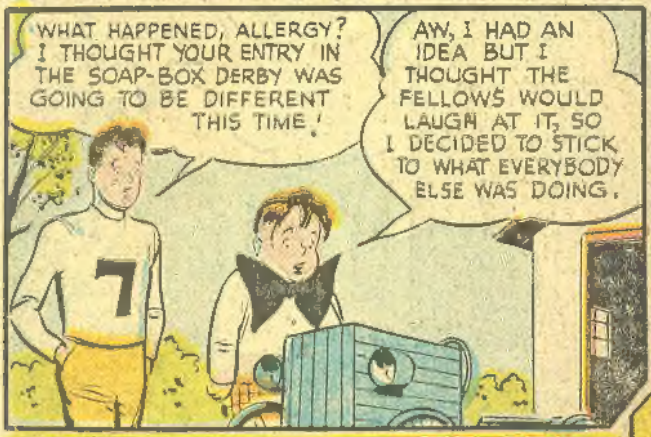
FEARLESS FOSDICK by Al Capp

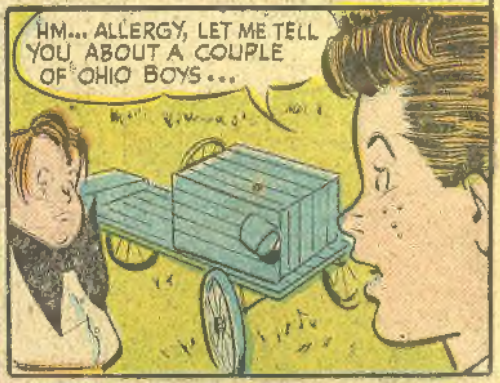
(-I'M PHONIO, THE CRIMINAL HYPNOTIST!!-)-FOSDICK!!-WE'RE BOTH BIRDS-RIGHT?
RIGHT!!
THEN-CHUCKLE!-FLY SOUTH!!
Copr. 1953 by United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

NOT TILL YOU COMB YOUR MESSY FEATHERS WITH WILDROOT CREAM-OIL AMERICA'S FAVORITE!
SMART GIRLS LOVE IT, TOO
WILDROOT

KEEPS HAIR-CHIRP!?-NEAT! REMOVES LOOSE DANDRUFF!? GET WILDROOT CREAM-OIL, CHARLIE!!
BUT THAT WOULD BE ILL-EAGLE!! MY NAME IS BALDY!!
ONLY CREAM-OIL GROOMS AND CONDITIONS HAIR THE NATURAL WAY

Binky says: "NEVER UNDERESTIMATE A NEW IDEA!"


WHAT HAPPENED, ALLERGY? I THOUGHT YOUR ENTRY IN THE SOAP-BOX DERBY WAS GOING TO BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME!
AW, I HAD AN IDEA BUT I THOUGHT THE FELLOWS WOULD LAUGH AT IT, SO I DECIDED TO STICK TO WHAT EVERYBODY ELSE WAS DOING.
7

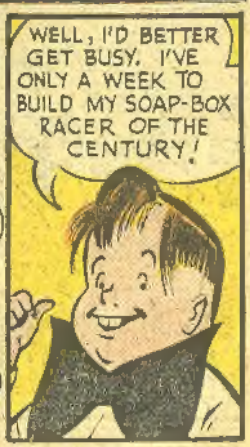


"BACK IN 1878, THEY BUILT A NEW KIND OF SLED. THE OTHER FELLOWS *DID* LAUGH--BUT IT OUTRAN ALL THE OTHERS."

"AFTER THAT, THEY TRIED OTHER NEW IDEAS, AND YEARS LATER, WHEN THEY BEGAN BUILDING A GLIDER, THEIR NEIGHBORS LAUGHED AGAIN."

"SOME OF THEIR IDEAS FAILED, BUT INSTEAD OF BEING DISCOURAGED, THEY KEPT TRYING, READING ABOUT OTHER INVENTORS, AND WORKING. FINALLY..."

YOU KNOW WHO THOSE TWO WERE? THE WRIGHT BROTHERS--WILBUR AND ORVILLE. THE FIRST MEN IN HISTORY TO FLY!
GOSH, *THEY* SURE WEREN'T AFRAID TO TRY SOMETHING NEW!



THIS PAGE IS PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH LEADING NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE AND YOUTH-SERVING ORGANIZATIONS.

MYSTERY OF THE RUNAWAY METEOR!

I'VE GOT TO LAND ON THAT METEOR AND PREVENT IT FROM CRASHING ONTO THE MOON!

IT WAS A LONELY LIFE--THAT OF TENDER OF A LIGHT-SHIP IN INTERPLANETARY SPACE--WARNING ROCKETSHIPS AWAY FROM THE BILLIONS OF METEORS THAT TRAVEL AT HIGH VELOCITY THROUGH THE SOLAR SYSTEM! YES, IT WAS LONELY AND DULL, LT. RAV HANLEY THOUGHT, BUT THAT WAS BEFORE HE ENCOUNTERED A RUNAWAY METEOR--AND DISCOVERED THERE WAS NO WAY TO WARN ANYONE OF THE FAST-MOVING MENACE!

A "BEEP" FROM A 22ND CENTURY MAIL JETCOPTER ANNOUNCES THE DELIVERY OF A SPACEGRAM...

I HOPE IT'S FROM RAV! WE'VE BEEN WAITING WEEKS TO HEAR FROM HIM!

I'LL GET IT, MOMMY!

BEEP!

AS THE INTERPLANETARY MISSIVE IS EAGERLY OPENED...

IT IS FROM YOUR BROTHER RAV! LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS... "BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS, MOTHER, I MAY HAVE BEEN DISHONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM THE SPACE-NAVY! BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW WHY I ACTED AS I DID..."

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"IN MY YOUTH, I LOOKED FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN I WOULD FOLLOW FAMILY TRADITION AND JOIN THE SPACE-NAVY--BUT WHEN I RECEIVED MY FIRST ASSIGNMENT..."

I'M INTER-[redacted] PATROL! WHAT DID YOU MAKE, RAV?

M-METEOR PATROL! OF ALL THE DULL ASSIGNMENTS--CONFINED TO A SPACE-LIGHTSHIP!

"I WENT TO OUR GROUP COMMANDER AND TRIED TO EXPLAIN HOW I FELT..."

...AND MAJOR WYLIE, SIR, MY FATHER FOUGHT IN BOTH SOLAR WARS! I'VE HAD MY HEART SET ON GETTING INTO A FIGHTING UNIT SINCE I COULD WEAR SPACEPANTS! I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE A METEOR-CHASER!

"THE MAJOR PATIENTLY LISTENED TO MY COMPLAINT, AND WHEN I WAS THROUGH..."

SON, I SYMPATHIZE WITH YOUR DESIRE TO SEE ACTION! IT'S COMMENDABLE! BUT IN OUR MODERN SPACE-NAVY THERE ARE ALL SORTS OF POSTS--LIKE THE [redacted] PATROL--WHICH ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT AS THE FIGHTING UNITS!

LIEUTENANT, CENTURIES AGO MEN PUT LIGHTSHIPS NEAR DANGEROUS ROCKY REEFS TO WARN SHIPPING! NOWADAYS, WE HAVE SPACE-LIGHTSHIPS TO WARN OF METEORS THAT HURTLE THROUGH OUR SOLAR SYSTEM AND ENDANGER SPACE VESSELS!

"FINALLY, THE MAJOR LOOKED ME IN THE EYE, AND I STILL REMEMBER HIS LAST WORDS TO ME..."

IN THE SPACE-NAVY WE GO WHERE WE'RE SENT! I TOO WANTED FIGHTING, BUT THEY PUT ME IN TRAINING, TWENTY YEARS AGO... YOU'RE GOING OUT THERE AND CHASE METEORS!

YES, SIR!

"LATER THAT DAY, IN DRAWING MY SUPPLIES, I GOT A SURPRISE..."

WHAT'S THAT?

PART OF YOUR EQUIPMENT, LIEUTENANT! ARTICLE 208, SECTION 119--"EVERY METEOR PATROLMAN SHALL BE PROVIDED WITH ONE TALKING WHIPPEN!"

"I RECALLED THEN THAT 'LIGHTSHIP-KEEPERS' WORKED ALONE, EXCEPT FOR THE INEVITABLE WHIPPEN..."

ALL LONELY OUTPOSTS HAVE WHIPPENS, LIEUTENANT! AFTER A FEW WEEKS OF SOLITUDE IN SPACE, YOU'LL BE GLAD TO HAVE SOMEONE TO TALK TO!

"A LAUNCH TOOK US OUT TO THE STATION, AND I GOT MY FIRST LOOK AT MY LIGHTSHIP, THE STARGLOW..."

YOU'RE RELIEVING A MAN WHO'S BEEN ON SOLITARY DUTY FOR TWO YEARS, LIEUTENANT HANLEY!

TWO YEARS... H-HOW COULD HE STAND IT?

"AN HOUR LATER, I WAS SETTLED ON THE STARGLOW, ALONE WITH MY WHIPPEN! AT FIRST I IGNORED THE CREATURE, BUT WHEN IT KEPT STARING AT ME..."

WHAT ARE YOU GAPING AT? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I... I'M WAITING TO TALK, SIR! THAT'S WHAT I HAVE BEEN TRAINED TO DO! MAY I START TALKING NOW?

NO! JUST LET ME ALONE TILL I TALK TO YOU!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

"MAYBE I WAS IMPATIENT, BUT I HAD NO TIME TO SOOTHE THE CREATURE'S FEELINGS, FOR AT THAT MOMENT..."

OUTER PATROL REPORTS METEOR OF MAGNITUDE SEVEN APPROACHING ON JUPITER Q94 TRACK! YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO IT AS OF NOW! PROCEED AT ONCE, LIEUTENANT!

"AT LEAST THIS WAS BETTER THAN REMAINING STATIONARY IN SPACE! I TOOK OFF IN MY LIGHTSHIP AND HEADED TOWARD JUPITER..."

THERE'S THE METEOR! NOW TO LINE UP ITS MOTION AND SPEED-- AND GIVE THE STARGLOW THE SAME CO-ORDINATES-- SO I'LL AUTOMATICALLY STAY WITH IT, THUS WARNING PASSING SHIPS TO KEEP OUT OF ITS PATH!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"ORDINARILY, PLOTTING A METEOR'S TRACK IS A SIMPLE TASK, BUT IN THIS CASE..."

STRANGE! IT--IT'S ALMOST AS IF THAT GIANT METEOR WERE TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM ME--TRYING TO LOSE ME! ITS ORBIT IS FANTASTIC!

"THE WEIRD CHASE CONTINUED! FINALLY, I RESOLVED TO TAKE ACTION, AND I CONTACTED THE BASE FOR PERMISSION..."

REQUEST PERMISSION TO PUT THE *STARGLOW* ON AUTOMATIC WHILE I LAND ON THE METEOR TO EXAMINE IT, CAPTAIN!

THIS IS UNPRECEDENTED, LIEUTENANT! YOUR REQUEST IS--

AT THAT MOMENT, WE WERE CUT OFF BY IONIC INTERFERENCE! AS I WAITED FOR THE COMPLETE ORDER, I NOTED SOMETHING..."

BY MY CALCULATIONS, THE METEOR IS NOW STREAKING STRAIGHT FOR LUNA--OUR MOON OF EARTH! BUT THERE'S STILL TIME FOR ME TO LAND ON IT AND DO SOMETHING TO CHANGE ITS COURSE!

"I KNEW THAT I WAS TAKING A RISK--IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE! GRIMLY, I PUT ON MY SPACESUIT..."

IF THE CAPTAIN WAS GOING TO GRANT ME PERMISSION TO LAND ON THE METEOR, I'M ALL RIGHT! BUT IF HE WAS GOING TO FORBID IT, THEN I'M DISOBEYING ORDERS! I'VE GOT TO CHANCE IT--FOR IF THE METEOR SHOULD CRASH ON THE MOON NEAR OUR BIG NAVY BASE...

"I STRAPPED ON AN ANTI-GRAV AND FASTENED MY OXY-HELMET TIGHT!-THEN I SET THE AUTOMATIC AND SLIPPED THROUGH THE LOCK..."

NOT MUCH TIME LEFT NOW! THE MOON'S GETTING BIGGER OUT THERE EVERY MINUTE!

"I HAD NO DEFINITE PLAN FOR CHANGING THE METEOR'S COURSE--BUT I HOPED TO GET AN IDEA WHILE I WAS EXAMINING IT..."

IT'S NOT VERY DENSE FOR ITS SIZE! SPECIFIC GRAVITY IS LOW! IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT IONIC INTERFERENCE I COULD SEND A MESSAGE TO THE NAVY BASE TO BLAST IT WITH A C-BOMB!

"SUDDENLY, AHEAD OF ME, SOMETHING MOVED, AND I FROZE IN MY TRACKS..."

GREAT SOL! THIS METEOR'S INHABITED!

ONE OF THE ENEMY!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

"AT ONCE I WAS AWARE OF THE ALIEN'S TELEPATHIC THOUGHTS! IT WAS AS IF THE CREATURE IN SURPRISE LET HIS THOUGHTS SLIP OUT..."

THE HUMAN WILL TRY TO INTERFERE WITH OUR PLAN TO HURL OUR "METEOR" AT THE SPACE-NAVY'S UNDERGROUND BASE ON THE MOON, WHERE IT IS SAFE FROM ATTACK...

...FORCING THE NAVY VESSELS TO TAKE OFF INTO SPACE TO AVOID THE CRASH! BUT AS SOON AS THEY DO OUR ILA-VIUME BATTLEROCKETS WILL MOVE IN FOR A SURPRISE KNOCKOUT BLOW!

"I HAD HEARD RUMORS OF THIS WARLIKE RACE WHICH INHABITED THE ANDROMEDA GALAXY.."

THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE ME PRISONER--TO PREVENT ME FROM SOUNDING THE ALARM!

"I REALIZED THAT THE FATE OF THE NAVY BASE--EVEN THE FATE OF EARTH--DEPENDED ON ME!"

THEY'RE NOT ARMED--I GUESS THEY DIDN'T EXPECT TO FIND ANYONE OUT HERE WHEN THEY CAME OUT OF THE METEOR HOLE!

"I SHOT INTO SPACE AGAIN, MAKING FOR MY LIGHTSHIP AS FAST AS MY ANTI-GRAV COULD PROPEL ME..."

HE MUST BE DESTROYED--OR OUR ENTIRE PLAN WILL FAIL!

THEY'RE GOING BACK INTO THEIR HATCH--TO BRING UP THEIR WEAPONS!

"I SCRAMBLED INSIDE THE SHIP AND GOT BEHIND THE CONTROLS.."

TOO BAD I DON'T CARRY ANY BOMBS, BUT MAYBE I CAN STOP THEM WITH THE MATERIALS AT HAND!

"I HIT THE ARTIFICIAL METEOR HEAD-ON! I KNEW THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT I'D STAVE IN MY HULL, BUT I HAD TO RISK IT."

"MY FIRST IMPACT MUST HAVE JOLTED THEIR FIRING MECHANISM OUT OF ORDER, BECAUSE THEY THREW NO RAY-SHOTS AT ME..."

IT WORKED! I'M CARRYING THE METEOR PAST THE MOON, AND ELIMINATED THE DANGER OF HAVING THE NAVY ROCKETS FORCED OUT OF THEIR HIDING SHEDS!

"SOON AFTER, I REESTABLISHED CONTACT WITH THE BASE AND TOLD THEM WHAT HAD HAPPENED..."

"THE FAKE METEOR AND ITS HOSTILE CREW WERE CAPTURED! BUT, MOTHER, I STILL DON'T KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I DISOBEYED ORDERS BY LEAVING THE SHIP! I'LL KNOW TONIGHT..."

THAT NIGHT, OVER TRANS-SPACE TELEPHONE, RAY TELLS HIS MOTHER THE VERDICT...

...AND IT TURNED OUT I *DID* HAVE PERMISSION, MOTHER! OUR RADIO CONTACT WENT OUT JUST AS THE CAPTAIN WAS ABOUT TO SAY "YOUR REQUEST IS GRANTED!" AND WHAT'S MORE, I'M BEING GIVEN A SPECIAL CITATION!

LATER, BACK ON THE *STARGLOW*, RAY ONCE AGAIN TAKES UP HIS LONELY VIGIL IN SPACE...

ALL RIGHT, WHIPPEN, YOU'VE HELD YOUR SILENCE LONG ENOUGH! WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

I WATCHED EVERY MOMENT OF THAT EXCITING BATTLE WITH THE *ILA-VIUME*, LIEUTENANT...

I'D LIKE TO TELL YOU HOW COURAGEOUS YOU WERE--THE MASTERFUL WAY YOU HANDLED THOSE CREATURES!

IT'S GOING TO BE NICE HAVING YOU ON BOARD AFTER ALL, WHIP! KEEP ON TALKING--DON'T LET ME STOP YOU!

The End

We Point with Pride to our

"HALL of TROPHIES!"

NATIONAL COMICS (SUPERMAN-DC)
is proud of the awards it has won for
MERIT and PUBLIC SERVICE...

For Example

U.S. TREASURY Distinguished Service AWARD

Not long ago, when your government wanted to encourage school youngsters to buy Savings Stamps, officials selected

NATIONAL COMICS

to produce a 15-minute film featuring **SUPERMAN**--the world's most famous comic book hero in the role of salesman-for-Uncle Sam!

The resulting movie

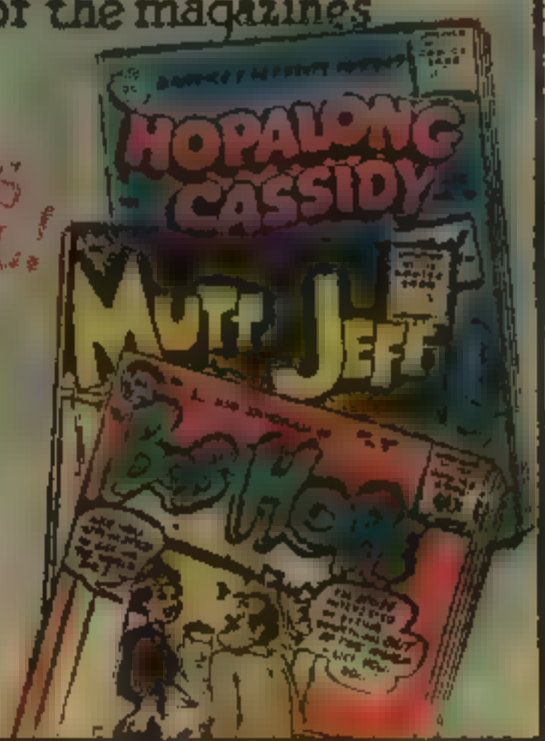
"STAMP PAL JOE SUPERMAN"

was approved for exhibition by school principals throughout the land.

And of course

NATIONAL COMICS
(SUPERMAN-DC)
is proud of the magazines bearing

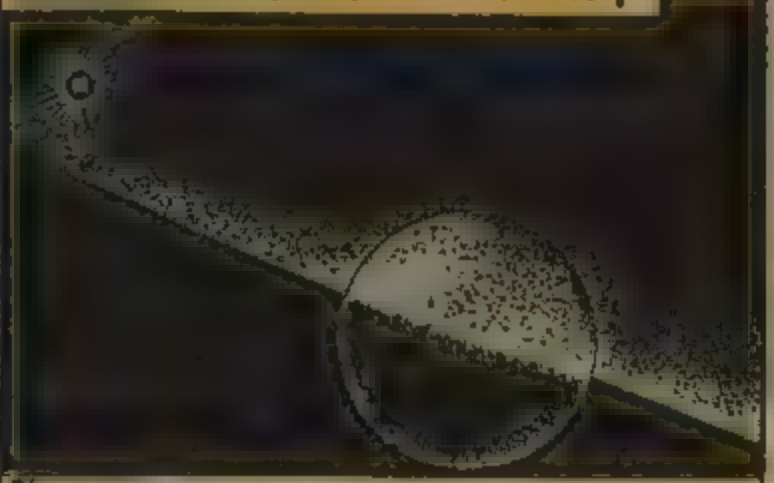
THIS FAMOUS SYMBOL!



Magazines with
ACTION ADVENTURE and HUMOR
in GOOD TASTE!

MYSTERIES in SPACE!

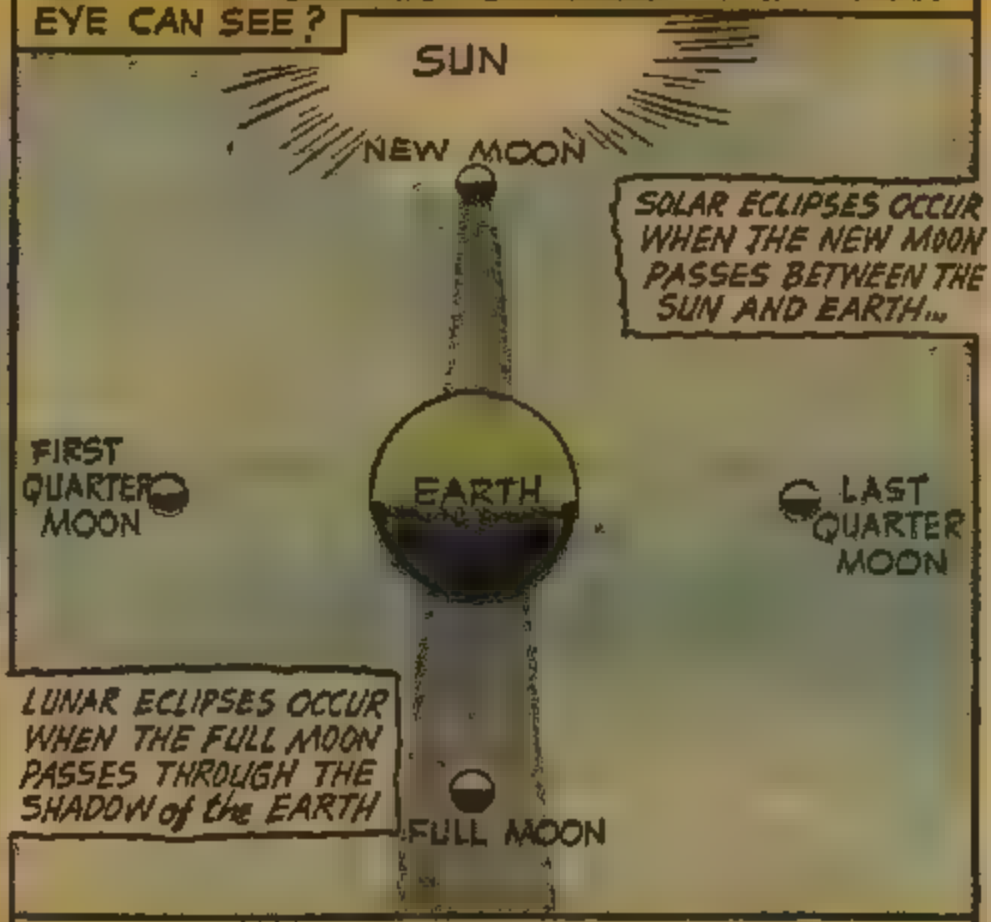
AS THE EARTH SWEEPS ALONG IN ITS ORBIT THROUGH SPACE, IT "COLLIDES" WITH 80,000,000 METEORS A DAY. WHAT IS THE AVERAGE DISTANCE BETWEEN EACH METEOR AS IT FALLS ON EARTH ?



THE EARTH "COLLIDES" WITH THE LEONID METEOR SHOWER ABOUT NOVEMBER 12TH of EVERY YEAR!

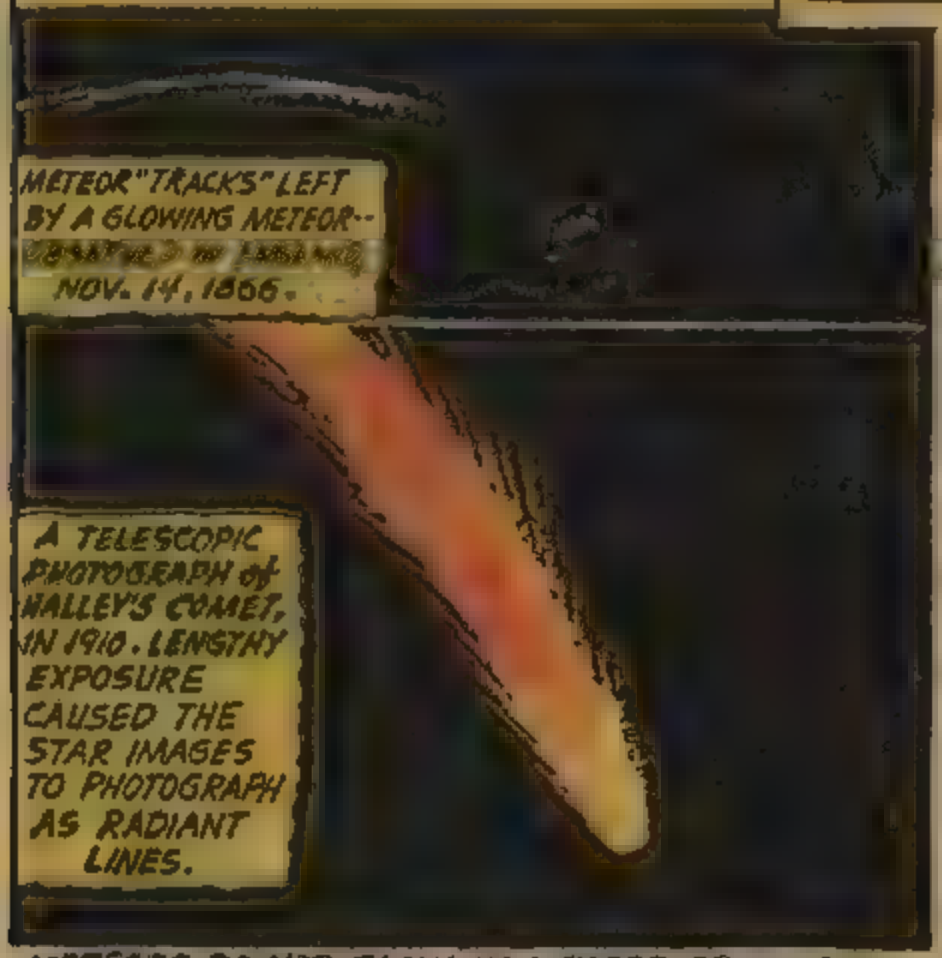
FROM A MATHEMATICAL POINT OF VIEW, EACH METEOR THAT FALLS ON EARTH IS SEPARATED BY AN AVERAGE DISTANCE OF 100 MILES.

WHAT IS THE GREATEST *SHADOW* THE HUMAN EYE CAN SEE ?


SUN
NEW MOON
SOLAR ECLIPSES OCCUR WHEN THE NEW MOON PASSES BETWEEN THE SUN AND EARTH...
FIRST QUARTER MOON
EARTH
LAST QUARTER MOON
LUNAR ECLIPSES OCCUR WHEN THE FULL MOON PASSES THROUGH THE SHADOW of the EARTH
FULL MOON

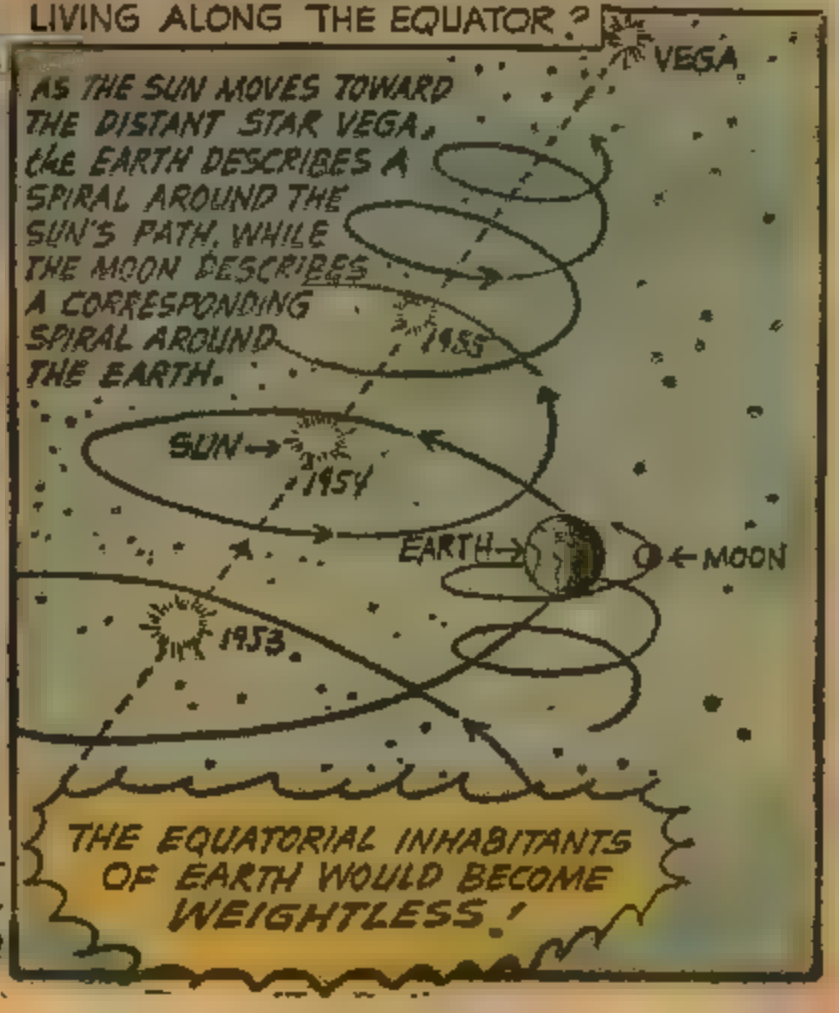
THE SHADOW THE PLANET EARTH CASTS ON THE MOON DURING A LUNAR ECLIPSE!

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN "GLOWS" BETWEEN METORS AND COMETS ?


METEOR "TRACKS" LEFT BY A GLOWING METEOR-- OBSERVED IN LARAMIE NOV. 14, 1866.
A TELESCOPIC PHOTOGRAPH of HALLEY'S COMET, IN 1910. LENGTHY EXPOSURE CAUSED THE STAR IMAGES TO PHOTOGRAPH AS RADIANT LINES.

METEORS DO NOT GLOW IN AIRLESS SPACE, BUT ARE HEATED TO A WHITE-HOT GLOW BY THE FRICTION OF THEIR FLIGHTS THROUGH THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE. COMETS SHINE IN AIRLESS SPACE WITH A BRIGHT LIGHT CAUSED BY THE REFLECTION OF SUNLIGHT FROM THE BILLIONS of DUST PARTICLES of WHICH COMETS ARE COMPOSED.

IF THE EARTH MADE A COMPLETE ROTATION IN 85 MINUTES, INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT 24-HOUR ROTATION TIME, WHAT AFFECT WOULD THE SPEED-UP HAVE ON PEOPLE LIVING ALONG THE EQUATOR ?


VEGA
AS THE SUN MOVES TOWARD THE DISTANT STAR VEGA, the EARTH DESCRIBES A SPIRAL AROUND THE SUN'S PATH, WHILE THE MOON DESCRIBES A CORRESPONDING SPIRAL AROUND THE EARTH.
1955
SUN
1954
EARTH
MOON
1953
THE EQUATORIAL INHABITANTS OF EARTH WOULD BECOME WEIGHTLESS!

RIP-VAN-WINKLE of SPACE

A PERSON CAST ADRIFT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN CANNOT HOPE TO SURVIVE MORE THAN A FEW DAYS WITHOUT FOOD OR WATER, UNLESS HE IS SIGHTED AND RESCUED. BUT A TRAVELER STRANDED ALONE IN THE BOUNDLESS DEPTHS OF SPACE COULD SURVIVE FOR YEARS--IN A DEEP-FREEZE TYPE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION! THIS IS THE STRANGE STORY OF A SHIP-WRECKED SPACE-MAN WHO "SLEPT" FOR 100 YEARS--FIVE TIMES LONGER THAN A FAMOUS LEGENDARY CHARACTER OF AN EARLIER CENTURY!

THAT FIGURE FLOATING FREE IN SPACE --. DRESSED IN AN OLD-FASHIONED SPACE-SUIT! HE'S BEEN SPACE-FROZEN FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!

LET'S GET HIM ABOARD! HE MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE!

A WARNING, RED, BLINKING LIGHT MEANS A SPEEDING AMBULANCE IN THE YEAR 2060, JUST AS IT DID A CENTURY AGO ..

[illegible] A SPACE-AMBULANCE! OUT OF ITS WAY!

A CRASH REPORTED IN THE ASTEROID BELT! FULL SPEED AHEAD!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

WHEN SPACE-AMBULANCE DRIVER HAL CARTER AND HIS AIDE REACH THE SCENE OF THE DISASTER ...

TOO LATE, MEN! THE SHIP'S ATOMIC FUEL CAUGHT FIRE--DESTROYED THE SHIP AND EVERYTHING ON IT!

NEVERTHELESS A THOROUGH SEARCH IS MADE OF THE WRECKAGE AFTER THE FIRE DIES DOWN, AND...

IT WAS ROSS BURKE--ESCAPED CRIMINAL! ONLY HIS INDESTRUCTIBLE IDENTITY TAG IS LEFT! NOW WE'LL NEVER FIND OUT WHERE HE HID HIS LOOT ON EARTH!

ROSS BURKE EARTH FACE-ST BORN 2020

ANOTHER MONTH PASSES FOR HAL CARTER WITH THE USUAL EMERGENCY CALLS...

LUCKY THAT METEOR D DN'T CRASH CLEAR THROUGH THE SHIP! ONLY ONE PASSENGER HURT! WE'LL RUSH HIM TO THE NEAREST HOSPITAL ON VENUS!

THEN, ONE DAY, RETURNING FROM A HOSPITAL CALL...

THAT'S ODD--NOBODY REPORTED THAT DERELICT! AND WHAT A STRANGE LOOKING SHIP! DOESN'T RESEMBLE OURS AT ALL!

LOOK! IT'S AN OLD TIME ROCKET OF A CENTURY AGO!

IT MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF FUEL AND DRIFTED AIMLESSLY IN SPACE SINCE. THEN!

EXPERIMENTAL SPACE ROCKET 1960

AND THE PILOT'S UNIFORM IS TYPICAL OF EARLY SPACE-PIONEERING DAYS IN 1960! POOR FELLOW, FROZEN DEAD FOR A CENTURY!

NO--NOT DEAD! HIS HEART IS STILL BEATING FAINTLY!

IMPOSSIBLE! WITHOUT A SPACE-SUIT, NO ONE CAN SURVIVE IN COLD, AIRLESS SPACE MORE THAN 24 HOURS!

UNLESS IT WAS THIS MAN'S FORTUNE TO BE *INSTANTLY* SPACE-FROZEN INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

ON THE SOLAR-HEATED AMBULANCE, SUPER-MEDICAL SCIENCE OF THE 21ST CENTURY TRIES TO REVIVE THE FROZEN SPACE-MAN...

I GAVE HIM A TRIPLE DOSE OF SPACECILLIN BY ELECTRONIC RAY-INJECTION! THAT MIGHT REVIVE HIM--HE'S COMING TO--HE MUST ME MUMBLING THE LAST THING ON HIS MIND IN 1960...

I'LL... BE THE FIRST EARTHMAN... TO REACH MARS...

UH... WHERE AM I?

PREPARE FOR A SHOCK, SIR! YOU HAVE JUST "AWAKENED" FROM A HUNDRED-YEAR SLEEP! THIS IS THE YEAR 2060...

2060?! YOU MUST BE KIDDING! IT'S ONLY 1960 AND I'M CAPTAIN TED BURTON, MAKING THE FIRST TRIP TO MARS!

IF THAT'S SO, CAPTAIN BURTON, YOU'RE ABOUT TO LAND ON MARS--ONE HUNDRED YEARS LATER!

MARSOPOLIS HOSPITAL

SOON, AT A MARTIAN HOSPITAL...

CITIES ON MARS? ROBOT NURSES? THIS REALLY IS THE FUTURE! OEE WHIZ!

HA, HA! PARDON ME FOR LAUGHING, BUT THAT QUAINT EXPRESSION OF 1960 SOUNDS FUNNY TODAY!

IN THE SPACE-HOSPITAL, WHERE CAPTAIN BURTON UNDERGOES A THOROUGH EXAMINATION...

THIS MAN HAS NO I-TAG! HOW CAN WE LEARN HIS IDENTITY?

WE CAN'T, DOCTOR! I-TAGS DIDN'T COME INTO USE UNTIL 1988!

EVERY-ONE WEARS AN IDENTITY TAG TODAY?

YES, FROM BIRTH! IT'S A SORT OF INTERPLANETARY PASSPORT! MADE OF SECRET, SUPER-HARD METAL, IT CAN'T BE COUNTERFEITED!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

HE CAME THROUGH HIS SUSPENDED ANIMATION ORDEAL IN PERFECT HEALTH--AND STRANGELY ENOUGH, HE DIDN'T AGE AT ALL! HE'S STILL A MAN OF 40, NOT 140 YEARS!

CAPTAIN BURTON, YOU ARE DISCHARGED FROM THIS HOSPITAL!

I FEEL LOST, CARTER! I HAVE NO JOB OR HOME HERE IN THE FUTURE!

YOU CAN STAY WITH ME, BURTON! I'M OFF DUTY FOR A WEEK, AND CAN SHOW YOU AROUND OUR FUTURE WORLD!

MARSOPOLIS HOSPITAL

SOON, IN HAL CARTER'S APARTMENT...

FIRST, HAVE SOME FOOD! YOU MUST BE FAMISHED--YOUR FIRST MEAL IN A CENTURY!

PUSH-BUTTON DINNERS!

THEN FOLLOWS A SIGHT-SEEING TOUR OF THE CITY--ON THE GROUND...

MOVING SIDEWALKS!

STAY ON THE "SLOW STRIP" TILL YOU GET YOUR BALANCE!

--AND THROUGH THE AIR...

KEEP IN YOUR AIR-LANE BURTON--OR YOU'LL CAUSE A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT!

TH-THESE "SHOULDER JETS" ARE G-GREAT FUN...I TH-THINK!

THEN TO A LIBRARY TO CATCH UP ON A HUNDRED YEARS OF HISTORY.

THE FIRST INTER-PLANETARY WAR BEGAN JANUARY 15, 1998...

TALKING PICTURE BOOKS! WHAT ABOUT SPORTS? I WAS A GREAT BASEBALL FAN!

20TH CENTURY HISTORY

MYSTERY IN SPACE

NEXT STOP--AT AN INTERPLANETARY LEAGUE BASEBALL GAME...

IT'S A HOMER! HIT A MILE FROM HOME PLATE!

YES, SINCE MARS' GRAVITY IS MUCH LESS THAN EARTH'S, THEY CAN REALLY HIT THE BALL "A MILE" HERE!

MARTIAN MARVELS VENUS VS. VOLUNTEERS

THAT NIGHT, ON THE JET FERRY TO MARS' TWIN MOONS...

MARS IS SURE FULL OF WONDERS, CARTER -- BUT I'M GETTING HOMESICK! WILL I EVER SEE MY OWN WORLD AGAIN?

YOU'LL BE GETTING YOUR I-TAG TO-MORROW! THEN YOU CAN TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN SPACE!

BUT SOMETHING BOTHERS HAL CARTER OF 2060 ABOUT HIS GUEST FROM 1960...

THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT HIM -- AS IF I SAW HIM SOMEPLACE BEFORE! BUT WHERE?

NEXT DAY, AT THE UNITED PLANETS IDENTITY BUREAU...

SINCE CAPTAIN BURTON IS AN AUTHENTIC SURVIVOR FROM 1960, WE HEREBY ISSUE HIM HIS I-TAG! IT IS HIS PASSPORT TO VISIT EARTH -- OR ANY OTHER PLANET IN THE SOLAR SYS[redacted]!

BUT SURPRISINGLY, CARTER SUDDENLY SLAPS THE TAG OUT OF BURTON'S HAND...

WAIT! THIS MAN IS AN IMPOSTOR -- A CRIMINAL OF TODAY! GUARD, BRING HIM TO THE CRIME BUREAU AND I'LL PROVE IT!

HUH? ME, A CROOK? YOU'VE FLIPPED YOUR LID, CARTER, AS WE USED TO SAY IN 1960!

AFTER AN ELECTRONIC PRISON SHAVER IS APPLIED TO CAPTAIN BURTON...

SEE? WITHOUT THE MUSTACHE OR BUSHY HAIR, HE'S ROSS BURKE WHO SUPPOSEDLY DIED ON THAT ASTEROID A MONTH AGO! BUT HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND -- BECAUSE IT WAS NEVER THERE!

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU FOUND ME OUT, BUT...

MYSTERY IN SPACE

AS BURKE TRIES TO ESCAPE THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW...

YOU'LL NEVER CAPTURE ME--HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

YOU PLAYED YOUR 1960 ROLE SO WELL, BURKE, YOU FORGOT ABOUT THOSE MECHANICAL HANDCUFFS AT EVERY WINDOW! YOU MIGHT AS WELL CONFESS YOUR HOAX NOW--

YOU WIN! YES, I STAGED THAT FAKE ASTEROID CRASH TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT MY BODY WAS DESTROYED! BUT I HAD SECRETLY SLIPPED AWAY TO MY ASTEROID HIDE-OUT WHERE I FOUND AN ANCIENT SPACE-WRECK!

"ALL I HAD TO DO WAS DRESS IN THE DEAD PILOT'S UNIFORM AND USE HIS AUTHENTIC OLD SPACE-SHIP OF 1960..."

"LATER, NEAR MARS, I DISCARDED MY SPACE-SUIT, LETTING MYSELF BECOME SPACE-FROZEN..."

IT'LL BE EASY TO FIX THESE DAMAGED TUBES WITH AN ELECTRONIC WELDER! LUCKILY THERE'S ENOUGH FUEL LEFT TO FLY THIS OLD SHIP CLOSE TO MARS!

;GASP! NO AIR...BITTER COLD! BUT OTHERS HAVE SURVIVED IN SPACE FOR TWENTY-FOUR HOURS! LONG BEFORE THAT, I'LL BE PICKED UP IN THIS HEAVILY TRAVELED SPACE-LANE AND REVIVED!

WITH A LITTLE STUDY OF 1960 HISTORY AND SLANG, HE PLANNED TO GET BY WITH HIS DECEPTION! IT WAS ALL A CLEVER PLOT DESIGNED TO GAIN A BRAND NEW *I-TAG* SO THAT HE COULD RETURN TO EARTH FOR HIS LOOT!

WHAT MADE YOU SUSPECT ME?

TODAY, WE ARE VACCINATED BY AN ELECTRONIC INSTRUMENT THAT LEAVES NO MARK ON THE SKIN! BUT I SUDDENLY REMEMBERED THAT WHEN YOU WERE EXAMINED IN THE HOSPITAL YOU HAD NO VACCINATION MARK--WHICH ANYONE FROM 1960 HAD TO HAVE!

I--I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!

The End

WONDERS OF SPACE

COLORFUL STARS!

If you should happen to overhear an astronomer whisper to himself, "Oh, be a fine girl, kiss me right now, sweetheart!" he won't be daydreaming of a pretty girl. He is merely saying this sentence so he can more easily recall the classification system in which stars are grouped according to their temperatures and colors . . . O, B, A, F, G, K, M, R, N, S . . . the first letters of each word in the sentence.

How important a role do the colors and temperatures of stars play in the world of astronomy? If the sun and any other distant star, say Sirius, could be observed at the same distance from Earth, the sun would be pale in comparison with Sirius, and indeed would be faint in comparison with billions of other stars. We would perceive that some stars appear brighter than others, even though they may be more distant from us, and that the stars run a gamut of colors from red, to yellow, to blue, to orange, to white, and so on.

Astronomers have determined that there is a direct ratio between the colors of stars and their surface temperatures—so that once the color of a star has been learned it is possible to obtain an accurate estimate of its surface temperature. There is nothing surprising about the fact that colors and temperatures of stars should have such a direct relationship with one another. A blacksmith obtains a similar effect with a piece of iron he is heating. As its temperature is increased, the metal changes from dull red to red, then to yellow, and finally to white—the hottest temperature of all—and a veteran blacksmith can estimate with a fair degree of accuracy the relative temperatures of the glowing iron by its changing colors.

By using a spectroscope, an astronomer can study the stars' spectra and obtain a very accurate estimate of their temperatures. When the light of a distant star is directed through a spectroscope, the light is broken up into a series of colors crossed by dark lines—known as Fraunhofer lines. The number and arrangement of these lines varies with the individual color of each star.

The hotter the surface temperature of a star, the more light it gives off for each square mile of its surface area. Once the temperature of a star has been determined from its color and spectrum, it is possible to calculate the amount of radiation emitted from each square mile of its surface. The amount of radiation divided into the total observed radiation of the star gives the star's *size*. Thus we see that the easily obtained colors and temperatures of stars enable astronomers to know the sizes of stars.

The results of these star-size calculations are quite extraordinary. They reveal that stars have an incredible range in diameters of about 4,000 miles to more than 2,000,000,000 miles! If we should line up all the stars according to size, we would notice that to a large extent they would also be arranged according to color! As we pass from the largest stars (which are red-colored and comparatively cool) to the smaller stars we find the color turning less and less red. When we reach the blue-star stage, we note that these stars have only about

one thousandth part as much surface area as a red star. Yet, strangely enough, the blue star's *luminosity* may very well be the same as the red star's. Even though it is 1,000 times smaller it emits 1,000 times as much light from each square mile of surface. The group of stars with high luminosity is referred to as "giants."

When we turn our attention from blue stars to smaller stars, we find that they are cooler and redder. They are not only smaller than the blue stars but emit less light per unit surface area. These fainter stars are contrasted from the "giants" by being called "dwarfs." About half way down this color sequence we come to our own sun, a yellow star. Its luminosity is about 1/10,000 that of a red giant, but about 10,000 times greater than that of a red dwarf. It is obvious then that a range of about 100,000,000 times in brightness exists between a red giant and a red dwarf.

As we have pointed out earlier, when the spectra of two or more stars are similar, the astronomer also knows that their temperatures must be similar too, even though the similar spectra reveal nothing about the *distances* of these two stars. For instance, while the stars Vega and Sirius have almost identical spectra —meaning that their temperatures are similar —Vega is about three times as far away from us as Sirius.

Careful observations of Vega and Sirius show that they have the same color, though the layman's inexperienced eye cannot judge the fine distinctions in color that the astronomer's instrument is capable of doing. Each of the two stars has a surface temperature of about 11,000°C. Two much cooler stars are Aldebaran and Antares, each colored red, with Aldebaran having a temperature of about 3,500°C, and Antares 400° less.

We have now reached the point where we can once again refer to the classification of stars—O, B, A, F, G, K, M, R, N, S. Stars of class O are blue and very hot, with temperatures in some cases as high as 50,000°C, though they are often much less than this. Next there are the B bluish-white stars with temperatures of about 20,000°, and then A, stars like Vega and Sirius, with temperatures in the neighborhood of 10,000°. After them come the F stars which are yellowish-white—7,000°—of which Procyon is a representative example. Class C is noteworthy because our own sun belongs to it—surface temperature 6,000°. The orange stars, with 4,000° temperatures, belong to class K, such as Arcturus and Aldebaran. Betelgeuse and Antares belong to the following class M, colored orange and red, with 3,000° temperatures. The remaining three classes are of minor importance—consisting of faint red variable stars of low temperatures, and contain less than 1% of all the stars.

THE RINGED WONDER OF SPACE!

In the early years of the 17th century, Galileo turned his newly invented telescope at the planet Saturn (which at the time was the most distant planet in the solar system) and was astounded to observe that the planet was accompanied by two other smaller worlds. A year later he was startled to discover that each of these two companion globes had disappeared. The famous astronomer was even more perplexed and mystified when a year later the two neighbor worlds appeared once again!

It took fifty years for astronomers to explain this now you see them, now you don't worlds. The two "additional worlds" Galileo "saw" were actually the rings of Saturn, and the disappearance and reappearance of the rings were due to their changing aspect, when for a time they cannot be seen from Earth at all.

As was customary in Galileo's time, the astronomer announced his discovery to a fellow-astronomer, Johann Kepler, in the form of an anagram, as follows:

Smaismrmilmepoetalevmibvnienvgttaviras

Kepler was at first utterly confused by the word puzzle, but after transposing the letters around he finally made sense out of the jumbled letters:

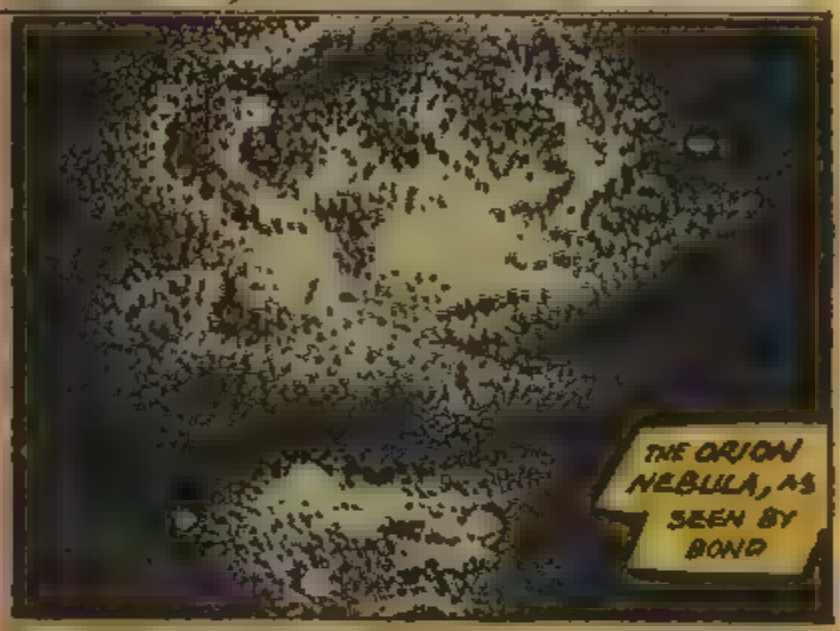
Altissimum planetam tergeminum observavi

(I have observed the most distant planet to be threefold)

GIANTS OF THE TELESCOPE!

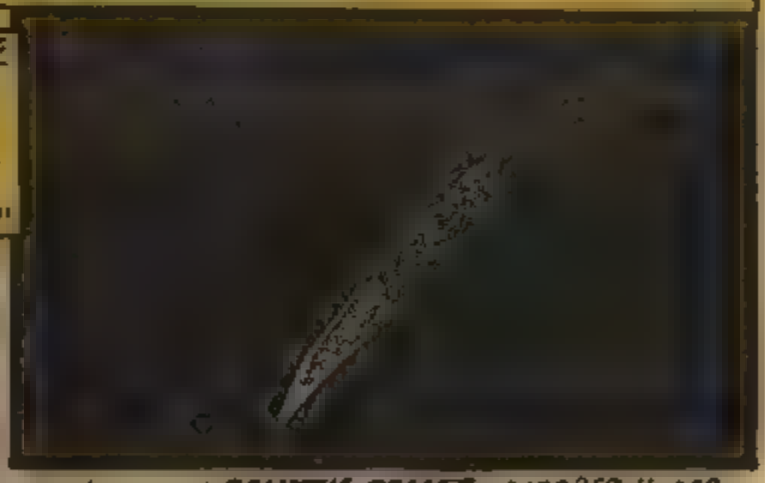
WILLIAM CRANCH BOND
(1789 — 1859)

IN 1840, W.C. BOND SUPERVISED THE BUILDING AND INSTALLATION OF A 15-INCH TELESCOPE AT HARVARD OBSERVATORY, WITH WHICH HE MADE IMPORTANT STUDIES OF SUNSPOTS, THE PLANET SATURN, AND THE ORION NEBULA...



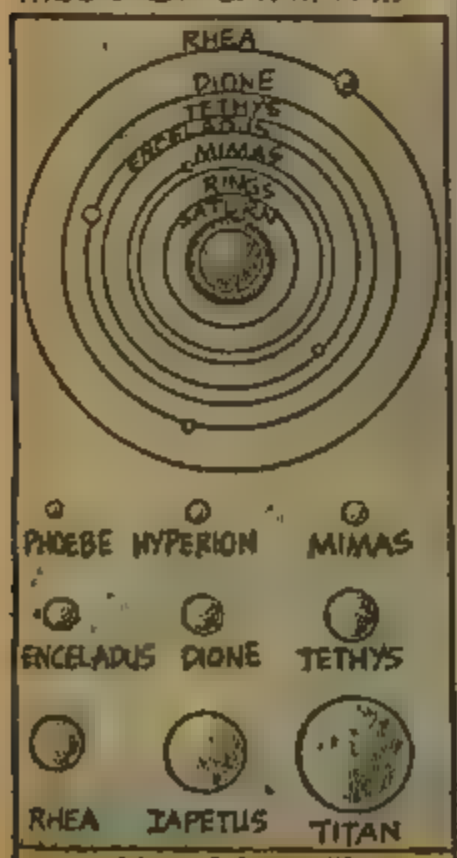
THE ORION NEBULA, AS SEEN BY BOND

A MAJOR ASTRONOMICAL FIRST ACHIEVED BY BOND (1858) WAS THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF A COMET--IN THIS CASE, *DONATI'S COMET*, AS IT WAS STREAKING THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...



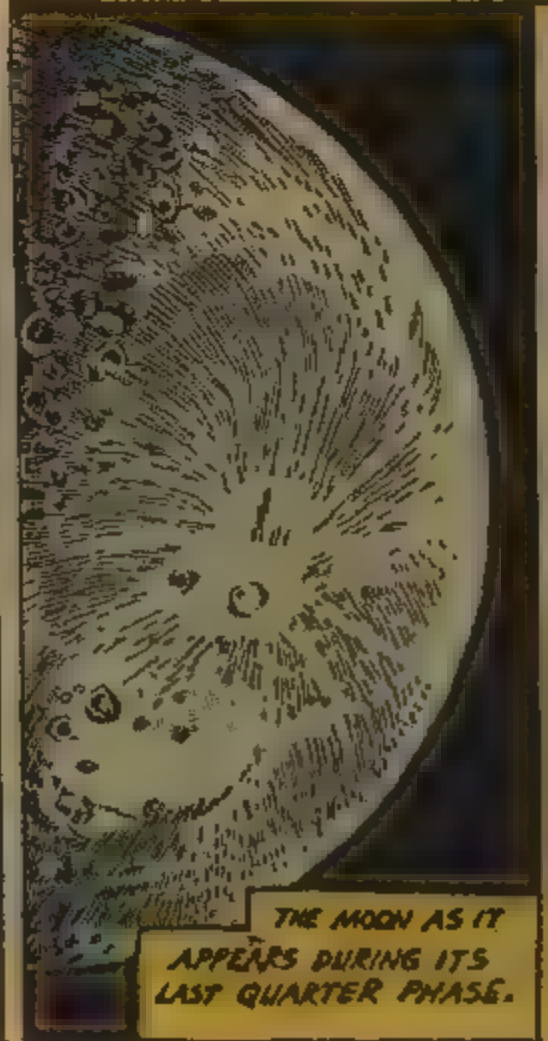
BOND'S VIEW OF *DONATI'S COMET*--OCTOBER 4, 1858

A POPULAR PURSUIT AMONG ASTRONOMERS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY WAS THE SCANNING OF INTERPLANETARY SPACE FOR NEW MOONS. BOND JOINED THE PARADE WITH HIS DISCOVERY OF *HYPERION*, THE EIGHTH MOON OF SATURN...



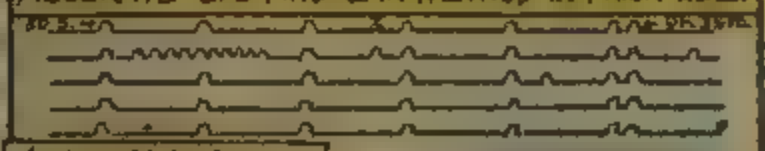
TOP--ORBIT OF SATURN'S 5 INNER MOONS. BOTTOM--RELATIVE SIZES OF SATURN'S 9 MOONS.

USING THE OLD DAGUERREOTYPE PROCESS, BOND IN 1850 WON THE DISTINCTIVE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST TO SUCCESSFULLY PHOTOGRAPH THE MOON...

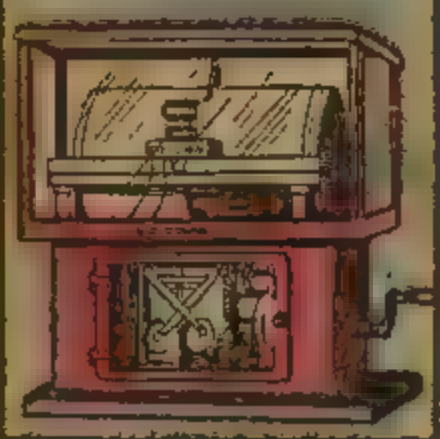


THE MOON AS IT APPEARS DURING ITS LAST QUARTER PHASE.

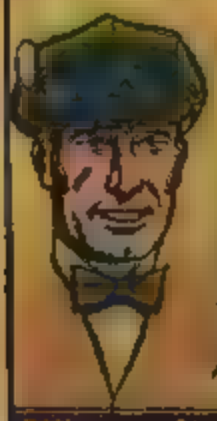
BOND DEVELOPED THE *CHRONOGRAPH* FOR AUTOMATICALLY RECORDING THE EXACT POSITIONS OF STARS--REPLACING THE INACCURATE EYE-AND-EAR METHOD IN PRIOR USE.



A CHRONOGRAPH RECORD--THE INITIAL MINUTE, MARKED SOON AFTER THE CHRONOGRAPH WAS STARTED, WAS 9h 35m, THE ZERO BEING INDICATED BY A DOUBLE BEAT. THE SIGNAL AT X, THEREFORE, WAS MADE AT 9h 35m 55s.45. THE "RATTLE" JUST PRECEDING X WAS THE SIGNAL THAT A STAR WAS APPROACHING.



INTERPLANETARY PARCEL OF PERIL!



LIKE ANY TAXI DRIVER, I ALWAYS RUN INTO FORGETFUL PEOPLE WHO LEAVE VALUABLE PACKAGES BEHIND IN MY SPACE-CAB! THE LAST ONE I FOUND WAS VALUABLE TOO--BUT IN A DANGEROUS SORT OF WAY... IT CLICKED... LIKE A TIME-BOMB! OF COURSE I COULD HAVE TAKEN THE EASY WAY OUT AND TOSSED THE PACKAGE INTO SPACE-- BUT I ALWAYS MANAGE TO DO THINGS THE HARD WAY... LIKE RISKING MY LIFE TO RETURN THE PARCEL OF PERIL TO ITS OWNER!

I JUST FINISH DROPPING OFF A FARE ON MERCURY, THE PLANET NEAREST THE SUN--AND I'M BURNING UP--BECAUSE THE TEMPERATURE ON THAT WORLD USUALLY HITS 600 DEGREES...

IT'S SO HOT THAT THE PERSPIRATION EVAPORATES BEFORE I GET A CHANCE TO WIPE IT OFF!

WARNING! EARTHMEN SEEK SHADE! DANGER, HEAT STROKE!

DID YOU EVER HAVE A "FLAME-MAN" FARE BEFORE, CABBIE?

NO--AND NEVER AGAIN! YOUR FIERY BREATH IS HEATING UP THAT PARCEL TO THE DANGER POINT!

DAN[illegible]OUS KHIP VOOL!

CLICK! CLICK!

WISH I COULD GET A FARE TO KHIP VOOL, THE ICEWORLD I GET PAID TO ADVERTISE ON MY SPACE-HACK!

KEEP COOL ON KHIP VOOL WINTER WONDER WORLD!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

SUDDENLY, I HEAR AN ODD SOUND INSIDE MY CAB...

IT'S COMING FROM THAT PARCEL! ONE OF MY FARES MUST HAVE LEFT IT!

CLICK! CLICK!

I WONDER WHAT'S IN IT--AND WHOSE IT IS? HMM, THERE'S SOME LETTERING ON THE PACKAGE--BUT SOME OF THE LETTERS ARE SMUDGED...

CLICK! CLICK!

DAN OUS! K..I P QOL!

IN SPITE OF THE HEAT, A CHILL RACES THROUGH MY BODY, WHEN I REALIZE WHAT THOSE FILLED-OUT WORDS COULD MEAN!

DANGEROUS! KEEP COOL! JUMPING JUPITER! AND THIS HEAT IS MAKE THE CONTENTS CLICK LOUDER AND FASTER! COULD THERE BE SOME INVENTION INSIDE THAT MIGHT... (GULP!)... BLOW UP?

TAXI

CLICK!

CLICK!

DIVING BACK IN MY SPACE-HACK WITH THE DANGEROUS BOX, I JET AWAY FASTER THAN A RUNAWAY COMET...

I'M GETTING OFF THIS HOT-HOUSE WORLD AND INTO COLD SPACE BEFORE I GET MY ATOMS SCATTERED FROM HERE TO SAGITTARIUS!

JUST AS I FIGURE, THE COLD OF SPACE PUTS A DAMPER ON THE CLICKING SOUND...

GUESS THE GIMMICK INSIDE THE PACKAGE ISN'T DANGEROUS AS LONG AS IT'S KEPT COOL! NOW TO TUNE IN THE SPACE LOST-AND-FOUND TELECAST IN CASE THE OWNER HAS ADVERTISED FOR HIS MISSING PACKAGE!

NO MENTION OF THE CLICKING PARCEL! I HAVE NO RIGHT TO OPEN IT, BUT I WISH I KNEW WHAT WAS INSIDE!

LOST-- MOONROCK RING, MRS. ADA JONES-- FOUND-- THREE SPACE GLOVES FOR THREE-TENTACLED SATURNIAN... LOST-- PET, KLIKKY, REWARD DAN CROUSE, KHIP VOOL...

MYSTERY IN SPACE

LATER, TUNING IN A SPACE-TELECAST, I GET THE JOLTING ANSWER LIKE A HEAD-ON CRASH WITH A METEOR!

...FLASH! SPACE DRAGNET SEEKING UNKNOWN INTER-PLANETARY CRIMINAL WITH TIME-BOMB CONCEALED IN BOX!

GREAT NEBULA! I MUST HAVE THAT SPACE-CROOK'S TIME-BOMB!

...REWARD FROM INTER-PLANETARY POLICE FOR HIS CAPTURE, TOGETHER WITH HIS LETHAL BOMB...

AH! A REWARD MAKES IT AN ASTEROID OF A DIFFERENT COLOR! I'VE GOT THE BOMB--ALL I NEED IS THE CROOK!

DAN OUS
K P MOL

BUT SUDDENLY THAT TERRIBLE CLICKING STARTS AGAIN...

YEOW! IN LEAVING *MERCURY* I GOT TOO CLOSE TO THE SUN! THAT TERRIFIC HEAT STARTED IT OFF AGAIN!

AFTER I VEER OFF INTO COLDER SPACE-LANES I TAKE OUT MY PASSENGER RECORD BOOK....

I'LL GET THAT REWARD YET! ALL I HAVE TO DO IS CHECK UP ON THE THREE FARES I HAD TODAY!

FARES...
JIK VUN, canaloida, Mars..
YURSL MXX, saturn hotel
DAN CROUSE, Khip Vool

MY FIRST CHECK-UP IS NOT MY MAN-OR MARTIAN...

IS THIS YOURS, JIK VUN?

NOT MINE, CABBIE!

MY SNAPPING FINGERS SOUND LIKE THE TIME-BOMB CLICKING.. BUT HE SHOWS NO ALARM!

SATURN IS NEXT, AND I'M PROCEEDING MERRILY ON MY WAY, WHEN...

IT'S CLICKING AGAIN! THAT GLOWING COMET!

MYSTERY IN SPACE

I LOOK AROUND FOR AN ESCAPE.. AND GET A BREAK WHEN A GIANT SPACE-LINER GOES BY...

I'LL STAY IN THIS SHIP'S COOL SHADOW TILL THAT COMET'S OUT OF RANGE!

MY CALL ON THE SATURNIAN, YURSL MXX, TURNS OUT TO BE A DUD--EXCEPT THAT I MANAGE TO PICK UP A FARE AWAY FROM SATURN...

HOP IN, MISTER!

TO KHIP VOOL, THE ICE WORLD, CABBIE!

THAT'S MY NEXT DESTINATION! IT'LL HELP PAY FOR THE ROCKET FUEL I'M BURNING UP IN THIS SPACE-HUNT!

EN ROUTE, I TAKE MY FIRST LOOK AT MY FARE-- AND NEARLY JUMP OUT OF MY SKIN...

A FLAME-MAN OF VULCAN! HE'S OVERHEATING MY CAB! THE PARCEL IS CLICKING AGAIN!

CLICK

BUT I NEVER GIVE UP A FARE IF THERE'S ANY WAY OUT, SO I OVERTAKE A SWARM OF METEORS AND...

AN ICE-COVERED METEOR! I'LL GRAB IT WITH MY EMERGENCY GRAPPLING HOOK AND KEEP IT UNDER MY CAB, COOLING OFF THE CLICKING PACKAGE!

AFTER DELIVERING THE FLAME-MAN TO THE ICE WORLD...

I HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER--OF 285 DEGREES-- WHICH THIS COLD WORLD SHOULD BRING DOWN!

WELL, THIS IS ONE PLACE I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY HEAT!

I WAS NEVER MORE WRONG IN MY LIFE!...

I PARKED RIGHT NEXT TO A HOT STEAM GEYSER! BETTER COOL MY CAB OFF IN SPACE!

WARNING! HOT STEAM GEYSER EVERY 30 MINUTES!

AND WHEN IT SEEMED THAT THE WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM HAD RUN OUT OF WAYS TO "BURN ME UP," MY OWN SPACE-CAB SUDDENLY GETS INTO THE ACT...

NOW MY OWN ATOMIC MOTOR IS OVERHEATING!

KEEP COOL ON KHIP VOOL WINTER WONDERLAND

ALL I CAN DO NOW IS WAIT HELPLESSLY IN SPACE, WHILE MY MOTOR AND PARCEL COOL OFF...

TAXI

THE NEXT--AND LAST--CUSTOMER ON MY LIST IS DAN CROUSE, AN EARTHMAN LIVING ON KHIP VOOL! HE'S GOT TO BE THE CULPRIT I'M AFTER!

LATER, ON KHIP VOOL, I CONFRONT CROUSE WITH THE PARCEL OF PERIL...

AH, YOU BROUGHT MY MISSING PACKAGE AT LAST!

SO YOU ADMIT IT'S YOURS, EH? FROM THE LOOKS OF THIS MANSION, YOU MUST HAVE STOLEN *MILLIONS*! I'M TAKING YOU TO THE POLICE!

SUDDENLY THE PARCEL BEGINS CLICKING AGAIN--AND IN RESPONSE TO CROUSE'S ANGUISHED SHOUT FOR ME TO OPEN IT...

WHAT IS THAT?

WHY, ONE OF MY PETS, OF COURSE!

CLICK!

MY HOBBY IS COLLECTING STRANGE CREATURES FOR PETS! *KLIKKY* HERE SLEEPS WHEN IT'S COOL, BUT ANY EXCESSIVE HEAT MAKES IT WAKE UP AND CLAMOR FOR FOOD BY CLICKING ITS ANTENNAE!

B-BUT WHY DID YOU MARK THE BOX--"*DANGEROUS* KEEP COOL"?

MYSTERY IN SPACE

I DIDN'T! SEE? I SIMPLY WROTE MY NAME AND THE WORLD I LIVE ON! DIDN'T YOU SEE MY NOTICE IN THE LOST-AND-FOUND TELECAST?

Y-YES, I DID! I HAD THAT CLUE ALL THE TIME-- AND ANOTHER ONE ON MY CAB!

DAN CROUSE KHIP VOOL

THAT KHIP VOOL POSTER ON MY CAB ESCAPED MY NOTICE TOO! BUT WHAT ABOUT THAT SPACE-CROOK AND THE TIME-BOMB HE CARRIED?

OH, DO YOU LISTEN TO "SPACE DRAGNET" TOO? WONDERFUL PROGRAM!

THE LAST EPISODE WAS ABOUT AN UNKNOWN SPACE-CROOK AND HIS TIME-BOMB!

OHHH! IS MY FACE MARS! JUST A SPACE-TELECAST DRAMA AND I SHUT IT OFF BEFORE HEARING THE END!

IT HAD ALL BEEN A CHASE IN SPACE WITH NO DANGER! NO CRIMINAL--NO POLICE REWARD-- NO NOTHING! EXCEPT FOR THE SURPRISE ENDING...

DON'T YOU REMEMBER MY AD CABBIE? HERE, ACCEPT THIS REWARD FOR RETURNING MY PET, KLIKKY!

LATER, I'M HAPPILY RACING ACROSS SPACE WITH A FARE, WHEN I HEAR A FAMILIAR, OMINOUS SOUND...

HEY!...WH-WHAT'S THAT CLICKING...(GULP!)... IN BACK?

CLICK, CLICK...

OH, PARDON ME! IS MY CARDIAC RELAY TICKING TOO LOUD? I'LL TURN IT DOWN--I'M A ROBOT, YOU SEE!

WHEW! FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT I HAD TO GO THROUGH THE SAME TROUBLE ALL OVER AGAIN!

TAXI

CLICK, CLICK...

The End

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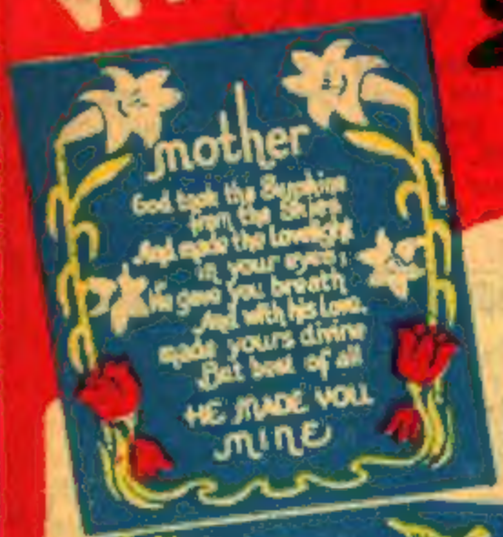

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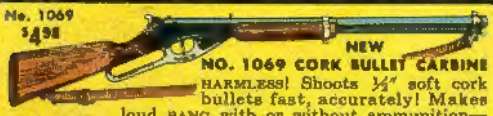

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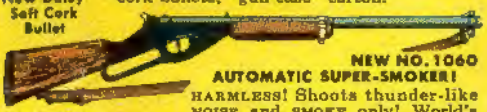

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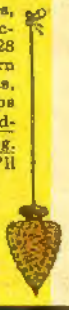

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